



THE  
OLD TROUT  
PUPPET WORKSHOP

# FAMOUS PUPPET DEATH SCENES



# BEHOLD!



The eternal masterwork of puppetry for adults finally comes to your town! Willingly undergo a heart-wrenching parade of theatrical demises that will severely exacerbate your fear of death.

All your favourite scenes are there: “Edward’s Last Prance,” from *The Ballad of Edward Grue* by Samuel Groanswallow, “The Feverish Heart,” by Nordo Frot, “I Hate My Little Brother,” by Sally, and the unforgettable “Bipsy’s Mistake” from *Bipsy and Mumu Go to the Zoo*, by Fun Freddy!

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For information and interviews, contact: Bob Davis, General Manager  
403 508 4929 bob@theoldtrouts.org

[To download high-resolution images, click here.](#)

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Booking Inquiries and Touring  
- Europe and International  
Paul Tanguay  
TANGUAY IMPRESARIO  
paulhtanguay@gmail.com  
+1 514 898 7586

Studio and Mailing address:  
The Old Trout Puppet Workshop  
3640 - 15A Street SE  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2G 3N5  
Canada



# WHAT THE PRESS HAS SAID ABOUT FAMOUS PUPPET DEATH SCENES

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“Visually stunning and endlessly entertaining.”  
*The L.A. Times*

“One of the best shows of the year...  
not to be missed.”  
*The Globe & Mail*

“Brilliant, sublime and often hilarious...  
sheer visual poetry... engages an audience like few  
productions I’ve ever seen....”  
*Monday Magazine, Victoria*

“Original... hilarious... breathtaking inventiveness...”  
*The Georgia Straight*

“One of the wildest, wackiest, most inventive puppet  
shows you’re ever likely to see.”  
*The Toronto Star*

“Mind-blowing originality... The Trouts are boldly  
reshaping puppet theatre into sophisticated  
adult entertainment.”  
*Fast-Forward Magazine, Calgary*

“Pure joy. Great, great theatre.”  
*Alvina Ruprecht, CBC Radio*

“... nothing short of glorious ... an absolute must ...”  
*- Edinburgh Guide*

“Poignant, profound, imaginative, utterly delightful.”  
*- British Theatre Guide*

“A gruesome and hilarious puppet show that laughs  
in the face of death.”  
*- The Wee Review*

“A brilliant adventure in the absurd”  
*- Spiked*

“Each new scene is more beautiful and inventive than  
the last.” - *The Skinny*

“...un plato delicioso... la espléndida altura  
de Puppet canadiense.”

“...a delicious meal... the splendid heights of the  
Canadian puppet.”  
*Granada Hoy, Spain*

“An amazing theatre experience... one of the best,  
most surreal works of imagination I’ve seen in ages.”  
*See Magazine, Edmonton*

“Exquisite... boundless invention... virtuosity...”  
*Variety Magazine*

“Hilarious, beautiful and macabre... simply  
remarkable... too intense to allow its audience to  
catch its breath, too beautiful for them to want to.”  
*Fast-Forward Magazine, Calgary*

“Dramatically engaging and visually stunning.”  
*The Boston Globe*

“No end of highlights... a great black comedy.”  
*The Calgary Herald*

“You simply have to catch this show...  
truly inspired.”  
*The Regina Leader-Post*

“Nothing short of genius.”  
*The Ottawa Citizen*

“Un bijou de créativité, de tendresse, at d’humour...  
un spectacle sans limite.”

“A jewel of creativity, of tenderness, and humour...  
a show without limits.”  
*Le Progrès, France*

“Sublimely inventive theatre... eye-popping images...  
wondrously imagined.”  
*The Courier, Vancouver*

# FAMOUS PUPPET DEATH SCENES

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY

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|                                  |                              |                 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| World Puppetry Festival          | Charleville-Mézières, France | 2019            |
| Edinburgh Fringe Festival        | Edinburgh, Scotland          | 2018            |
| Theatre Network                  | Edmonton, AB, Canada         | 2015            |
| Theatre Junction GRAND           | Calgary, AB, Canada          | 2015            |
| The Cultch                       | Vancouver, BC, Canada        | 2015            |
| Woolly Mammoth Theatre           | Washington, DC, USA          | 2014            |
| Banff Centre for the Arts        | Banff, AB, Canada            | 2014            |
| Nuits de Fourvière Festival      | Lyon, France                 | 2014            |
| Teatro Central                   | Sevilla, Spain               | 2010            |
| Teatro Cánovas                   | Málaga, Spain                | 2010            |
| Teatro Alhambra                  | Granada, Spain               | 2010            |
| Centre Cultural des Marionnettes | Frouard, France              | 2010            |
| Le Semaine Européene             | Bourg-en-Bresse, France      | 2010            |
| Theatre Blanquefort              | Blanquefort, France          | 2010            |
| Theatre Clamart                  | Clamart, France              | 2010            |
| La Comète                        | Châlons-en-Champagne, France | 2010            |
| NEXT Festival                    | Lille, France                | 2009            |
| Le Manège                        | Maubeuge, France             | 2009            |
| La Maison des Arts               | Créteil, France              | 2009            |
| Roxy Theatre                     | Edmonton, AB, Canada         | 2008            |
| PuSH Festival of Theatre         | Vancouver, BC, Canada        | 2008            |
| Samueli Theater                  | Orange County, CA, USA       | 2008            |
| Banff Centre for the Arts        | Banff, AB, Canada            | 2008            |
| Soulpepper Theatre               | Toronto, ON, Canada          | 2008            |
| ManiGanses Festival              | Jonquière, Québec, Canada    | 2008            |
| Festival Transamériques          | Montréal, Québec, Canada     | 2007            |
| Public Theatre                   | New York, NY, USA            | 2007            |
| Wexner Centre for the Arts       | Columbus, OH, USA            | 2007            |
| Inst. of Contemporary Art        | Boston, MA, USA              | 2007            |
| Rhode Island School of Art       | Providence, RI, USA          | 2007            |
| Theatre Junction GRAND           | Calgary, AB, Canada          | 2006            |
| Globe Theatre                    | Regina, SK, Canada           | 2006            |
| The Cultch                       | Vancouver, BC, Canada        | 2006            |
| Vernon Arts Centre               | Vernon, BC, Canada           | 2006            |
| University of Victoria           | Victoria, BC, Canada         | 2006            |
| Mag North Theatre Festival       | Ottawa, ON, Canada           | 2006            |
| Soulpepper Theatre               | Toronto, ON, Canada          | 2006            |
| Big Secret Theatre               | Calgary, AB, Canada          | 2006            |
| PuSh Festival                    | Vancouver, BC, Canada        | 2006 (Premiere) |

# SYNOPSIS

Who could forget the first time they saw a puppet die? It's one of the most emotionally devastating experiences a person can have – to see an otherwise inanimate object with cute googly eyes and a funny voice come to life before your eyes fills us with delight and wonder, and then to see that life snatched away drives a dagger deep into our psyches, a dagger which then opens up at the pointy end to reveal a little dagger mouth, that opens up and screams inside our fragile hearts: “please, no, don't let the puppet die! For in that puppet's death, do I not sense the dread whispers of my own impending mortality?”

Great works of art ask questions like that – questions that maybe can't ever truly be answered, but must be asked again and again by each generation anew. And so each generation creates a new masterpiece of puppet theatre, which becomes the fulcrum of our collective hopes and fears. Eternal works like *Bipsy and Mumu Go to the Zoo* by Fun Freddy or Nordo Frot's *The Feverish Heart* have not only defined their eras, they have shown us who we really are, deep down, where nobody else can see. We owe those shows, and those artists, so, so much.

But my gosh who's got the time these days to see an entire puppet show? Yes: back before the internet, people were used to being bored, so they could sit still for a surprising amount of time without wondering if they were missing something more exciting happening somewhere else. But now we expect our emotional devastation to be delivered like a kung fu punch to our soft bits so we can move on to the next intense experience as quickly as possible. And so the Old Trout Puppet Workshop has gathered together, for your existential anguish, **ONLY THE MOST DRAMATIC BITS OF THE GREATEST MASTERWORKS OF PUPPET THEATRE** throughout history: namely, the part where the puppet dies. No need to sit through laborious exposition or plotting or character development – we leap straight to the laserbeam point, like the K-Tel Greatest Hits Album with every single song that has ever made you cry.

It's a horrible thing to experience. You should go do something more cheerful. You only have so much time left.



# NATHANIAL TWEAK PRESENTS THE GREATEST DEATH SCENES IN PUPPET THEATRE HISTORY.

*The Feverish Heart* by Nordo Frot: Act 1, Scene 3  
*Das Bipsy und Mumu Puppenspiel* by Freülicher Friedrich: Episode 43 "Bipsy's Mistake"  
*The Ballad of Edward Grue* by Samuel Groanswallow: Act 4, Scene 6  
*The Modern Age (Part 3)* by Eamon Schloss: "The Staircase Scene"  
*The Forgotten Dish* by Sterling Lowry: "The Winds of Fate"  
*The Swede of Donnylargan* by Sir Walter Pill: Act 3, Scene 2  
*Why I Am So Sad* by Sally  
*Immortal Art Can Be Your Friend!* by Sarah Phweet: "Sculpture!"  
*The Feverish Heart* by Nordo Frot: Act 2, Scene 6  
*La Nature au Naturel* avec Dr. François LeBoule: Episode 12  
*Never Say it Again* by Linda Snuck  
*Dulce et Decorum Est* by Corporal Norman Strake  
*The Beast of Muggditch Lane* by August Stainbrook: Act 1, Scene 1  
*The Feverish Heart* by Nordo Frot: Act 4, Scene 14  
*Flap Flap Flap* by Lizzie Fook  
*The Last Whale* by Grover Bailiwick  
*The Ship of Faithlessness Flounders* by the Reverend George Foote  
*The Feverish Heart* by Nordo Frot: Act 19, Scene 78  
*Lucille Arabesque* by Agathon Finley  
*King Jeff the Magnificent* by William Dingo  
*The Perfect Death Scene* by Nathaniel Tweak



*Please endeavor to care as much as possible.*

# ABOUT THE TROUTS

The Old Trout Puppet Workshop was founded back in the blustery winter of 1999 by a gang of old buddies in a coal-heated shack on a ranch in southern Alberta. Since those distant and savage days, the Old Trouts have grown to become one of Canada's best-known artistic exports; now based in Calgary, they've made puppet shows for both children and adults that tour the world, written and illustrated several books, crafted immense sculptures, and made films (including a Juno Award-winning video for Feist, and a Christmas special with the National Film Board). Not to mention running a puppet festival, teaching extensively and creating large scale shows with companies like the National Arts Centre, Theatre Calgary, and Vancouver Opera. Most recently, they teamed up with Calgary Opera to create a brand new puppet opera based on an ancient Greek ghost story, *Ghost Opera*. Next up: who knows? They're working on adaptations of *The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow* and *Dr. Faustus*, a video game, a movie, and touring *Famous Puppet Death Scenes* to anywhere that will invite them, because they are desperate to be wanted.

Images from our most recent productions:



Jabberwocky (credit Jason Stang Photography)



Twelfth Night (credit Trudi Lee)



Ghost Opera (credit Jessica Wittman Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity)



Ghost Opera (credit Jason Stang)



To download high-resolution images, [click here](#).

*Photo Credits: Jason Stang Photography*





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## WARNING

*Famous Puppet Death Scenes* contains stage fog, strobe lighting, abrupt noises, unnecessary cruelty to inanimate objects, and hot, hot puppet nudity. Not recommended for the emotionally fragile. Please weep uncontrollably only into the buckets provided.

Only darkness awaits.

# CREATED AND CONCEIVED BY THE OLD TROUT PUPPET WORKSHOP & FRIENDS:

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Peter Balkwill, Paul Bézaire, Don Brinsmead,  
Mitchell Craib, Nicolas Di Gaetano, Jen Gareau,  
Pityu Kenderes, Bobby Hall, Sam Hindle,  
Viktor Lukawski, Sarah Malik, Cimmeron Meyer,  
Judd Palmer, Stephen Pearce,  
Mike Rinaldi, & Tim Sutherland

Starring: Pete Balkwill, Judd Palmer,  
and Pityu Kenderes

Original Production Directed by Tim Sutherland  
Remount Production Directed by Peter Balkwill,  
Pityu Kenderes & Judd Palmer

Stage Management by Paul Bézaire

Apprentic Stage Manager Nicoe Olson Grant-Suttie

Costumes by Jen Gareau & Sarah Malik

Lighting Design by Cimmeron Meyer

Sound Design by Mike Rinaldi

Technical Direction by Nicole Olson Grant-Suttie  
General Manager Bob Davis

Additional Production by

Mercedes Batiz-Benét, Marilyn Palmer,  
Dawn Bryan, Jimmy Davidge, Don Brinsmead, &  
Riley Miljan/TechArt Custom Creations

Special Thanks to:

Paul Acaon, Norman Armour,  
Mercedes Bâtiz-Benét, Nan Balkwill,  
Jennifer Coveyduc, Colleen Davis, Valentin Ivanov,  
Bill Beauregard, Jimmy Davidge,  
Samantha Hindle, Dave Lane, Derek Langille,  
The Green Fools, Marilyn Palmer,  
Vanessa Porteous, Sandra Engstrom,  
Grant Burns, Paul Tanguay, Andy George,  
Michael Rubenfeld, Clayton Lee, and all the gang  
at SelfConscious Productions; and thanks also  
for the generous support of the Canadian Actors'  
Equity Association.

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The Old Trouts are very grateful for their assistance.